WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indian Children in Pak Custody

*162. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Edhi', a social organisation of Pakistan, has drawn the attention of the Government to the pathetic condition of 38 Indian children who were rounded up by Pak Security forces for illegal fishing in Pak-waters;

(b) if so, whether 'Edhi' had requested the Government to repatriate these children from Pakistan's custody; and

(c) if so, the Governmnet's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). On 18th May, 1996, the Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' carried a report which stated that 34 Indian children were lodged in the Edhi Welfare Centre, Karachi. The report further stated that these children had been arrested by the Pakistani authorities in September 1994.

The matter was immediately taken up with the Government of Pakistan who was requested to provide personal details/documents of these children. Permission was also sought for officials of the High Commission of India, Islamabad to visit Karachi so as to obtain access to these children to determine their antecedents for taking further necessary action to bring them to India.

Maulana Edhi of the Welfare Centre was also contacted to determine their background and ascertain their welfare. Maulana Edhi informed the High Commission in writing that formal permission of the Government of Pakistan would be required by his organisation for interacting with our Mission regarding these children.

Government of Pakistan has as yet neither provided details nor has it allowed our Mission offcials to have access to these children. In the present situation we are unable to make any authoritative assessment regarding these children. There have, however, been indications that these children are from Gujarat and Daman and Diu and may have been in the fishing boats which were apprehended by Pakistani agencies for allegedly fishing in Pakistani waters.

We are actively pursuing this matter with Pakistan.

[Translation]

Sale of Arms and Ammunitions

*166. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to sell arms and ammunitions made in Indian ordnance factories in the international markets and

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard and our position in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Ordnance factories and defence public sector undertakings have already been exporting their products.

(b) The steps taken to enhance exports include policy and procedural liberalisation, utilisation of our Missions abroad, interaction with foreign delegations, participation in selected defence exhibitions abroad, undertaking publicity measures and the use of marketing skills and infrastructure of non-defence public sector undertakings and trading houses.

A beginning has been made in this field. Given the production capability (backed by R and D and quality assurance support) in India and our comparative advantages (such as lower man hour costs the potential for export of conventional arms and ammunition as well as for undertaking repair and overhaul work is substantial; but the problems of making entry of securing orders in a shrinking world market have to be contended with.

Cement and Power Plants in Bhutan

*167. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhutan has made any proposal to set up cement and power plants in Bhutan with India's collaboration;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the said plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. During the visit of king of Bhutan from 4-7th March, 1996, the Agreements on setting up of Tala Hydro-electric Project and the Dungsum Cement Plant in Bhutan were signed on 5th March, 1996.

(b) Tala Hydro-electric Project is a run-of-the river project on river Wangchu in Bhutan. The project is expected to cost around Rs. 1891.18 crores (December'95 estimates) and to generate 1020 MW of power. Governmet would be providing necessary finance in terms of an outright grant of 60% of the project cost and 40% of the cost as a soft loan. All the surplus power from the project is to be purchased by India at rates to be mutually agreed upon at the time of commissioning of the Project.

The Dungsum Cement Plant is a dry process cement plant with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes per year. This is envisaged as a joint venture between Royal Government of Bhutan and an Indian company to be selected. Government would be providing necessary funds as grant for this project estimated at Rs. 30

crores and another Rs. 100 crores for the infrastructural facilities at the Indian side.

(c) As per the present estimates, construction of Tata Hydro-electric Project is likely to be completed in 8 years and Dungsum Cement Plan in 5 years.

Financial Assistance to Minority Institutions

*168. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Minority Institutions (Technical and Non-Technical) functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether financial assistance and other facilities are provided to the Minority Institutions by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c). It is the State Governments which accord recognition for the minority character of an educational institution. Details of minorities education institutions which got such recognition are not maintained nationally. However, details of madarasas which were provided financial assistance by the Government for Modernisation are furnished in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

S. No.	State's Name	No. of Madarsas	1993-94	No. of Madasas	1994-95	No. of Madasas	1995-96
1.	Uttar Pradesh	10	Rs. 3,04,000/-	40	Rs. 11,69,600/-	120	Rs. 34,88,000/-
2.	Madhya Pradesh			19	Rs. 5,77,600/-	39	Rs. 11,09,600/-
3.	Haryana			5	Rs. 1,52,000/-	5	Rs. 1,32,000/-
4.	Karnataka					9	Rs. 2,73,600/-
5.	Kerala					42	Rs. 12,76,800/-
6.	Tripura					24	Rs. 7,29,600/-
7.	West Bengal					80	Rs. 24,32,000/-
8.	Assam					64	Rs. 19,45,600/-
9.	Tamil Nadu					1	Rs. 30,400/-
10.	Sikkim					1	Rs. 30,400/-
11.	Delhi					5	Rs. 1,52,000/-
	Total		Rs. 3,04,000/-		Rs. 18,99,200/-		Rs. 1,16,00,000/-

Grants to Fake Colleges

*169. DR. SAHEBRAM SUKRAM BAGUL :
SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees have been given away as grants by the University Grants Commission to the Colleges.

(b) if so, the particulars of the colleges existent on papers only, State-wise to which such grants were made by the University Grants Commission alongwith the amounts allocated to each of them; and

(e) the number of officers/employees held responsible for this and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), Development Grant is provided to recognised Colleges as per rules/regulations framed under the UGC Act according to prescribed norms. The UGC maintains lists of colleges which are eligible to receive grants. It has informed the Government that, in October, 1988, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar had forwarded to UGC a proposal of Abdul Qayum Ansari College, Jehanabad, Bihar for financial assistance. The UGC after examination approved Rs. 6.95 lakhs in July, 1994 for the Seventh Plan period. Subsequently, DIG (CID), Bihar informed the Commission that the papers submitted by the College for recognition were in fact forged. The college has been blacklisted by the UGC. The Bihar Police have also registered a criminal case under IPC 467/468/471/420.

No other case of this nature has come to the notice of the commission so far.

New Education Policy

*170. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government intend to modify and bring about unfromity in the New Education Policy announced in 1986;